

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 OECD P 28372 021741Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: TECH, OECD, AFSP

SUBJECT: OECD ROAD RESEARCH PROGRAM IN 1974 BUDGET

REFS: A. USOECD 26089

B. C(73)135, 1974 PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET

1. COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF BUDGET FOR 1974 ROAD RESEARCH PROGRAM (REF A) LED TO ITS IDENTIFICATION AS ISSUE FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION IN DETAIL IN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. FIRST EX COM DISCUSSION WAS HELD OCTOBER 31.

2. TWO PRINCIPAL QUESTIONS WERE RAISED IN EX COM, CONCERNING (A) BUDGETARY COSTS OF ROAD RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS AND (B) SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN REAL RESOURCES PROPOSED FOR ROAD RESEARCH PROGRAM (7 PERCENT IN SECRETARIAT'S ESTIMATE, PARA 752 OF REF B).

3. GERMAN DELEGATE SUGGESTED THERE MIGHT BE SAVINGS IF ROAD RESEARCH REPORTS WERE DERESTRICTED (AND DISTRIBUTED TO THOSE INTERESTED IN DOCUMENT FORM) INSTEAD OF PUBLISHED (WHICH IN PRACTICE MEANS REPRODUCED FROM TYPED VERSION WITH NEW COVER AND SOLD THROUGH COMMERCIAL CHANNELS). SECRETARIAT SAID DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS FOR DERESTRICTED AS OPPOSED TO UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 OECD P 28372 021741Z

PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS ARE INSUFFICIENT TO GET MATERIAL TO WIDE

AUDIENCE IT NOW REACHES. HOWEVER, SECRETARIAT PROPOSED ATTEMPT BE MADE TO INCREASE SALES PRICE AND THEREBY COVER LARGER PROPORTION OF PRODUCTION COSTS OF PUBLICATIONS, WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF COPIES ARE DISTRIBUTED FREE OF CHARGE AND CANNOT REALISTICALLY BE PAID FOR OUT OF RECEIPTS FOR SOLD COPIES. QUESTION WILL BE EXAMINED IN GENERAL CONTEXT OF PUBLICATIONS POLICY BY COUNCIL WORKING PARTY ON INFORMATION.

4. SEVERAL DELEGATES REFERRED TO 7 PERCENT INCREASE IN REAL RESOURCES FOR ROAD RESEARCH PROGRAM AS VERY LARGE CONSIDERING THAT AVERAGE INCREASE FOR OTHER PARTS OF PROGRAM, ( EXCLUDING TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM, WHICH IS BEING CUT BACK) IS LESS THAN HALF AS MUCH. UK ASKED THAT SECRETARIAT PREPARE PRO-POSAL AS TO HOW PROGRAM WOULD BE CUT BACK IF NO INCREASE IN REAL RESOURCES WAS PERMITTED.

5. SECRETARIAT RESPONDED THAT NEW ORIENTATION OF PROGRAM REFLECTING CHANGED NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CONCERNS REQUIRED THAT ROAD RESEARCH BE PLACED WITHIN CONTEXT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT. CUT-BACK WOULD REQUIRE EITHER ELIMINATING THIS NEW ORIENTATION OR DROPPING SOME OF PAST PROJECTS. SECRETARIAT AGREED, HOWEVER, TO RESPOND TO UK REQUEST AT MEETING OF EX COM TO TAKE PLACE NOVEMBER 7.

6. COMMENT. MISSION BELIEVES THAT, IN SITUATION OF TIGHT RESOURCES, ROAD RESEARCH PROGRAM IS NOT PART OF OECD BUDGET THAT SHOULD RECEIVE INCREASE EMPHASIS. UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE BY NOV, 7 THEREFORE, MISSION PLANS TO SUPPORT ATTEMPTS TO REDUCE BUDGET FOR ROAD RESEARCH PROGRAM IN 1974 TO SOMETHING CLOSE TO 1973 LEVEL IN REAL TERMS. BROWN

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